

US Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District 201 North Third Avenue Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

## Public Notice of Application for Permit

APPLICATION NUMBER:

NWW No. 030600520

(ITD Key Nos. 7505)

APPLICANT:

Idaho Transportation Department, District 2

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:

August 14, 2003

21-Day Notice

COMMENTS DUE DATE:

September 4, 2003

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plans.

APPLICANT - Idaho Transportation Department, District 2, PO Box 837, Lewiston, Idaho 83501-0837, contact Mr. Zachary Funkhouser, telephone 208-746-4250. For information from the Corps of Engineers, contact Mr. Duane E. Mitchell at 509-527-7156.

LOCATION - Calf Creek, Cow Creek, Thorn Creek, tributaries to the South Fork Palouse River and adjacent wetlands along U.S. 95 between Genesee (MP 330.94) and Moscow (MP 343.982) in Latah County, Idaho.

WORK – Discharge fill material into 2.9 acres of wetland and 1 mile of stream channels to widen, realign and relocate U.S. 95.

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD - Applicant proposes to start construction in the spring of 2004 and anticipates construction to take 4 years. The permit would authorize construction for a period of 5 years.

PURPOSE - To improve public safety and increase highway capacity.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - The applicant proposes to widen, realign, and relocate U.S. 95 from two to four lanes from the top of Lewiston Hill to Moscow, Idaho, in two separate phases. These phases are independent and funded separately and thus, they are considered separate single and complete projects and are being evaluated for separate Department of the Army permits. This Public Notice describes the phase from Genesee to Moscow. The applicant proposes to widen, realign and relocate approximately 13 miles of U.S. 95 between Genesee at MP 330.94, and Moscow at MP 343.982. The phase from the top of Lewiston Hill to Genesee is described in the Public Notice for NWW No. 030600510 that is being published concurrently with this Public Notice. That phase extends for a distance of 7.8 miles, between MP 319.85, at the top of Lewiston

Hill, and MP 330.94 at Genesee. The additional lanes would improve traffic flow and provide passing lanes for both north and southbound traffic to improve safety. The existing segment of U.S. 95 between the top of Lewiston Hill and Moscow does not meet current American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Standards. Deficiencies have been identified as width, clear zones, grade, horizontal and vertical curves, and sight distance. Additional concerns include high-accident locations, access control and insufficient highway capacity.

Approximately 2,725 cubic yards of fill material would be discharged into streams and wetlands along the proposed highway corridor as needed to relocate stream segments away from the new highway alignment, widen the highway and construct additional traffic lanes. Realigning Calf Creek and Thorn Creek would be conducted in several steps. First, earthmoving, forming and shaping of the new channel will be performed in the driest months of the year (April through October). All work will incorporate temporary erosion and sediment control measures. Open channel work will be performed along the new stream alignment without interfering with the existing creek. The new stream banks created by the stream realignment will be treated against erosion. The methods will be a combination of establishing vegetation and/or protecting the slopes and channel with a geotextile fabric prior to using the new streambed to carry water.

Box culverts will be constructed with as little interference to the existing creeks as possible. New box culvert ends tying into the existing stream will require the stream to be temporarily rerouted so that there is space to accommodate the box culvert construction. New stream banks in those areas will be constructed to move the alignment of the stream to one side. The new slopes and channel will be treated in the same manner as mentioned above.

The Idaho Transportation Department proposes to compensate for filling a total of 5.5 acres of wetlands between the two phases by creating 10.1 acres of wetlands in the Cow Creek floodplain upstream of the U.S. 95 crossing. The mitigation site is located near Genesee in Sec. 14, T.37N., R.5W., Latah County, Idaho. Approximately 0.7 mile of Cow Creek is slated for restoration as mitigation for project impacts. Presently, wetlands along this segment of Cow Creek are dominated by reed canarygrass and the channel is incised which has reduced the available floodplain. The mitigation plan will enhance 1.97 acres of palustrine emergent wetland. The plan also includes creation of 3.92 acres of palustrine scrub/shrub and 5.59 acres of palustrine forested wetland. The restoration is also designed to reconstruct the floodplain. See the "Proposed Wetland Mitigation Plan" included with this Public Notice.

AREA DESCRIPTION - U.S. 95 is the primary north-south commercial and commuter link between Lewiston, Moscow, and several smaller towns in Idaho. The project area consists of agricultural land, woodlots, rural residences, and small businesses. Wetlands are located on both sides of U.S. 95 at various locations. The wetland communities are normally adjacent to streams and typically less than 1 acre each. They include both disturbed and relatively undisturbed areas. The majority of the wetlands that would be impacted on this project are palustrine emergent with a smaller portion being palustrine forested. Most of the stream segments to be impacted by the project are already degraded by land use practices or have been altered by the previous construction of U.S. 95.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS ON AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT – The proposed project would result in the filling of a total of 2.9 acres of emergent and forested wetlands. In addition to the wetlands, approximately 1 mile of stream channel will be impacted. These impacts will amount to relocating segments of Calf Creek and

Thorn Creek. Segments of these creeks that intersect the proposed roadway will be placed in culverts. In areas where the roadway is to be widened, existing culverts will be lengthened to accommodate the extra traffic lanes. Relocated channel segments will be designed, constructed, and revegetated to improve the habitat characteristics of the existing degraded channels.

OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS - Other authorization obtained or requested includes, but are not necessarily limited to: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION • This will also serve as public notice that Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is evaluating whether to certify that the discharges of dredged and fill material proposed for this project will not violate existing water quality standards. A Department of the Army permit will not be issued until water quality certification has been issued or waived by the State of Idaho, as required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. If water quality certification is not issued, waived or denied within 60 days of this public notice date, and an extension of this period is not granted to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, certification will be considered waived. Comments concerning certification for this project should be mailed to Mr. Kerby Cole, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Lewiston Regional Office, Lewiston, Idaho 83501.

CULTURAL RESOURCES – Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) conducted coordination with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer to determine if this activity would affect any sites that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or sites that may be eligible for listing on the Register. The ITD determined that no listed or potentially eligible sites would be affected by this activity.

ENDANGERED SPECIES - Coordination is currently being conducted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to determine if the activity would have any effect on species designated as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, or their critical habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT - Preliminary review indicates that the activity will not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Comments provided will be considered in preparation of an Environmental Assessment.

AUTHORITY - This permit will be issued or denied under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

EVALUATION - The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, our evaluation will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR 230) as required by Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS - The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

PUBLIC HEARING - Any person may request in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposed activity. Requests for a public hearing shall state specific reasons for holding a public hearing.

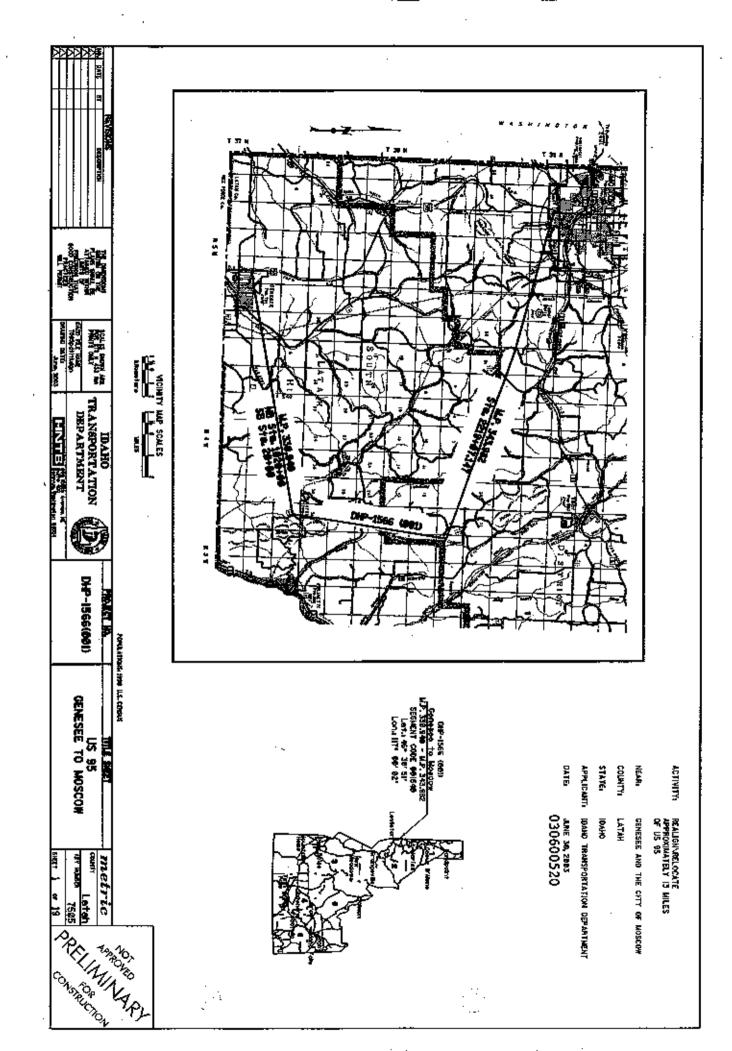
COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD - Interested parties are invited to provide their comments on the proposed activity, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to:

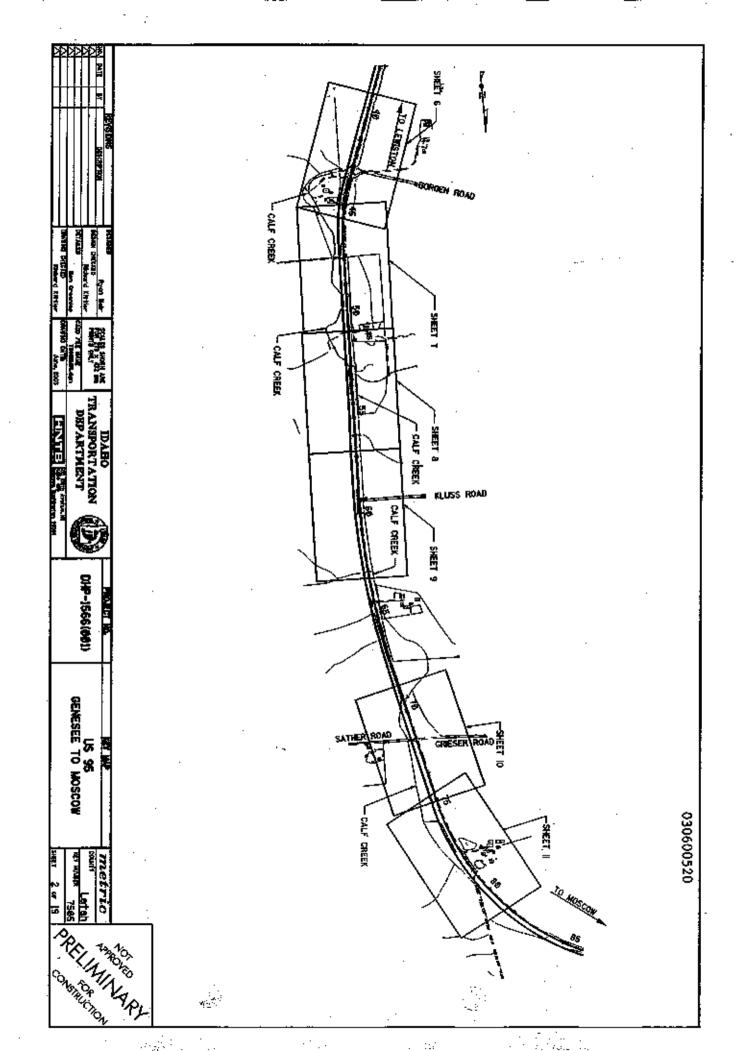
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District Regulatory Branch 201 North 3rd Avenue Walla Walla, Washington 99362-1876

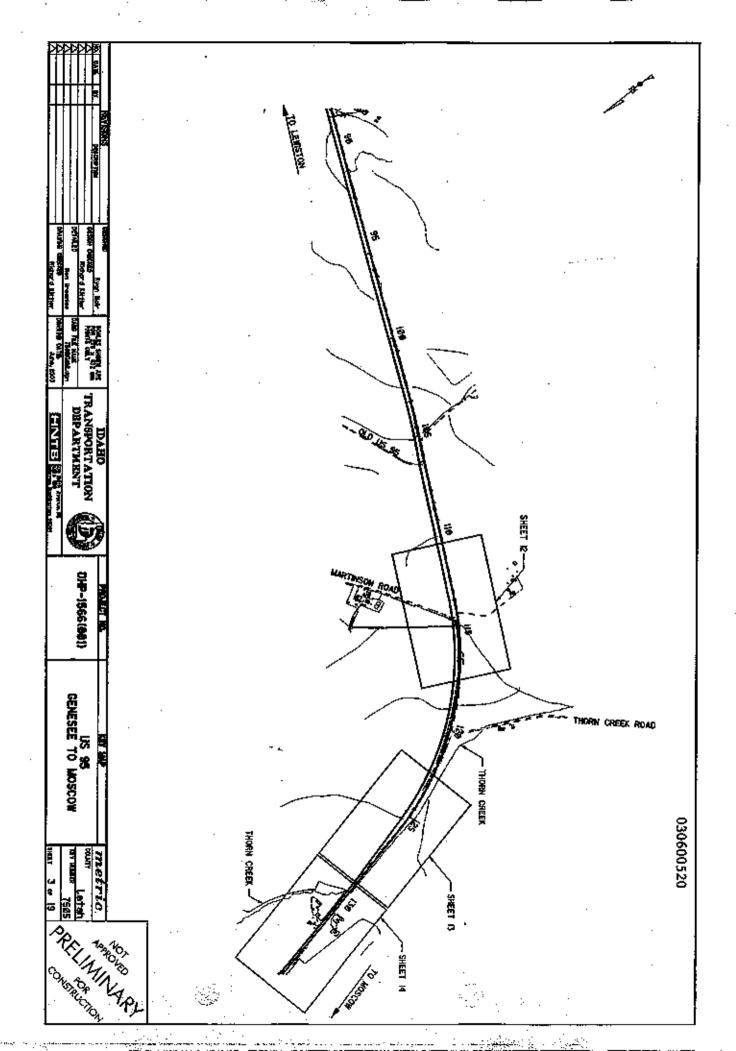
Comments should be received not later than the comments due date of this notice to receive consideration.

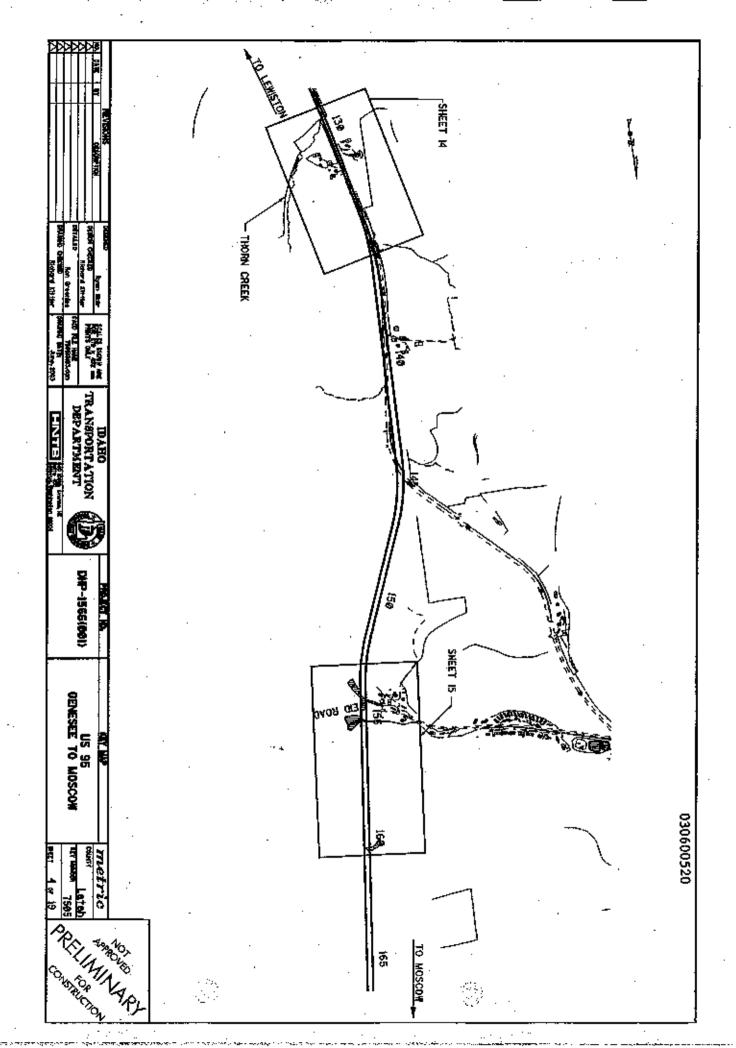
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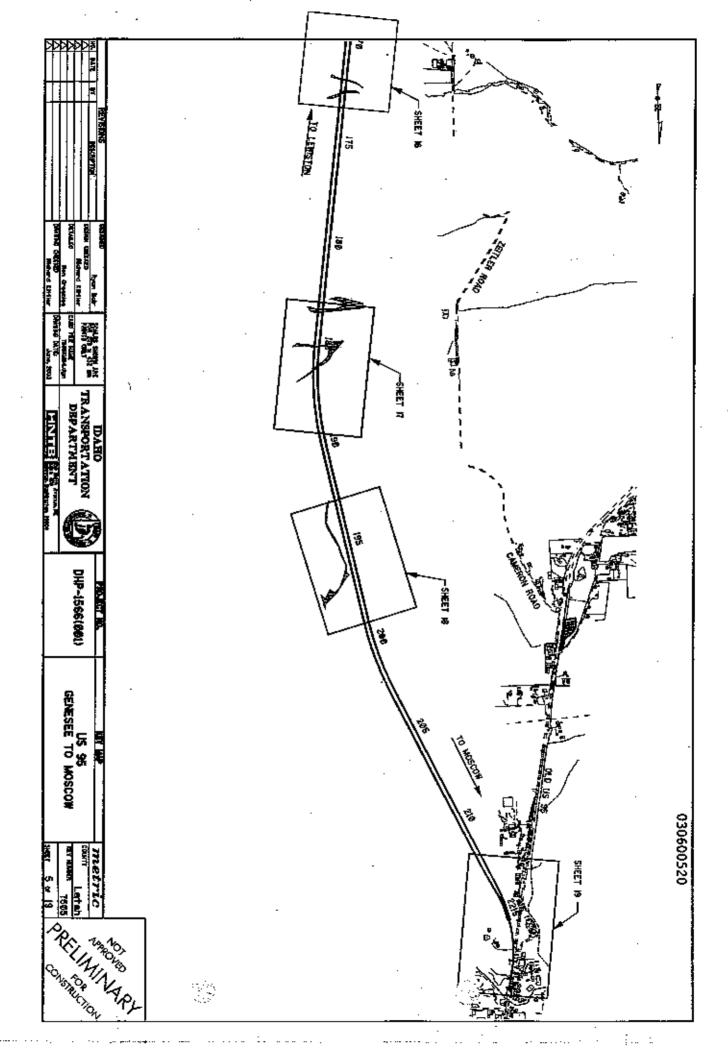
Chief, Regulatory Branch

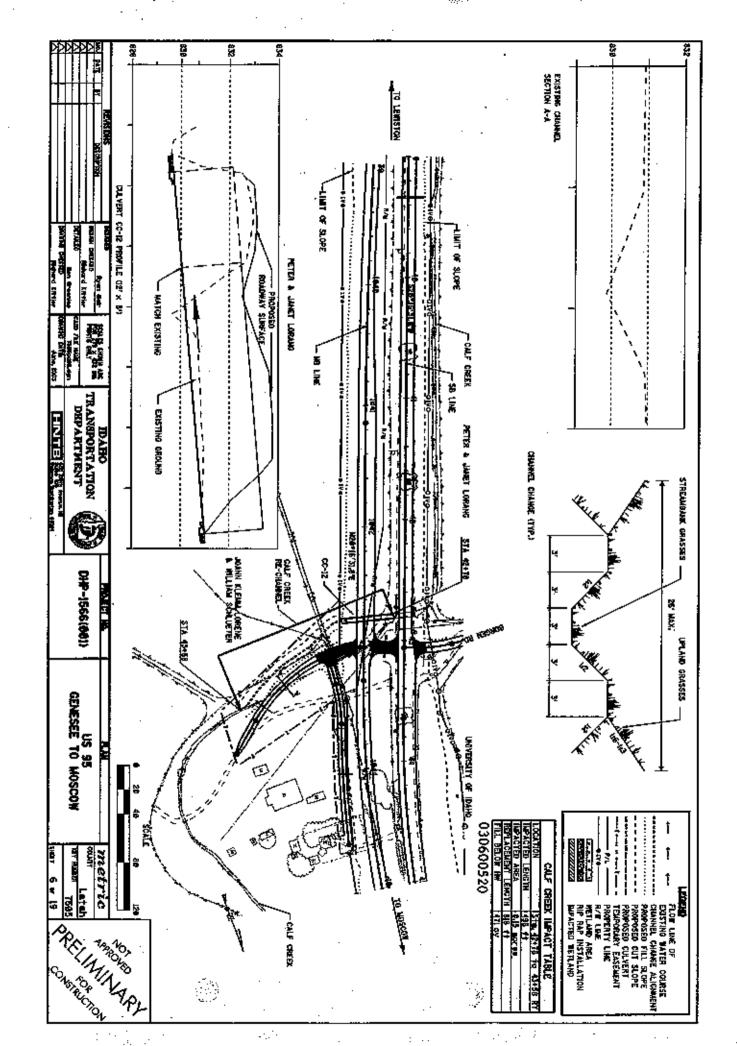


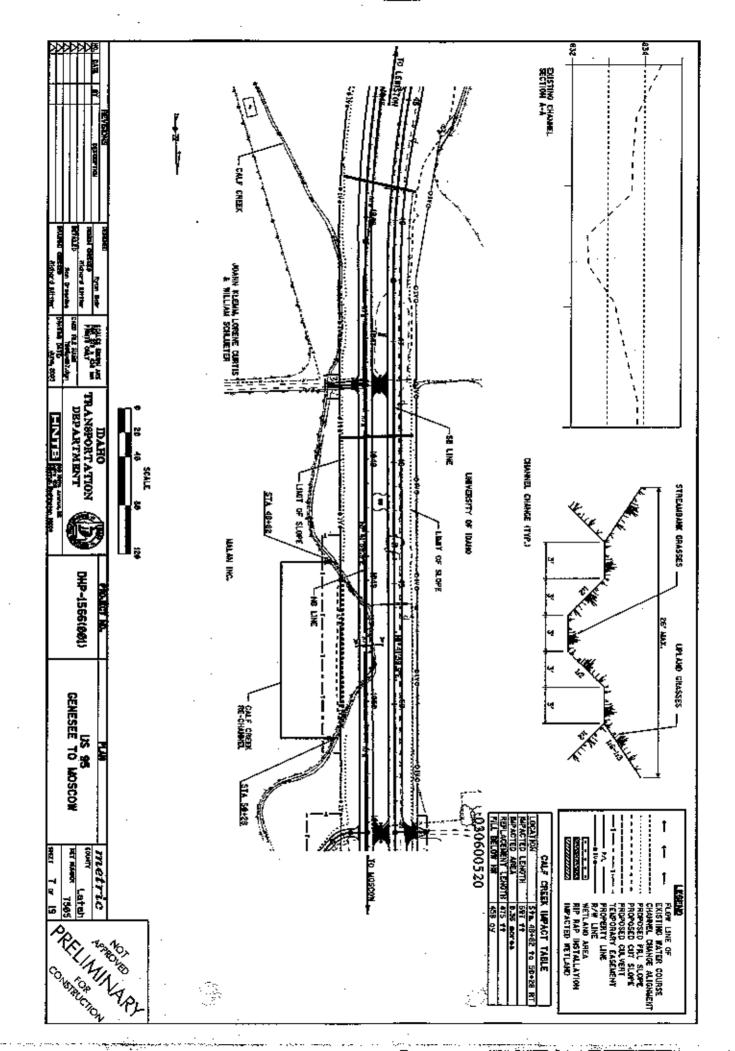


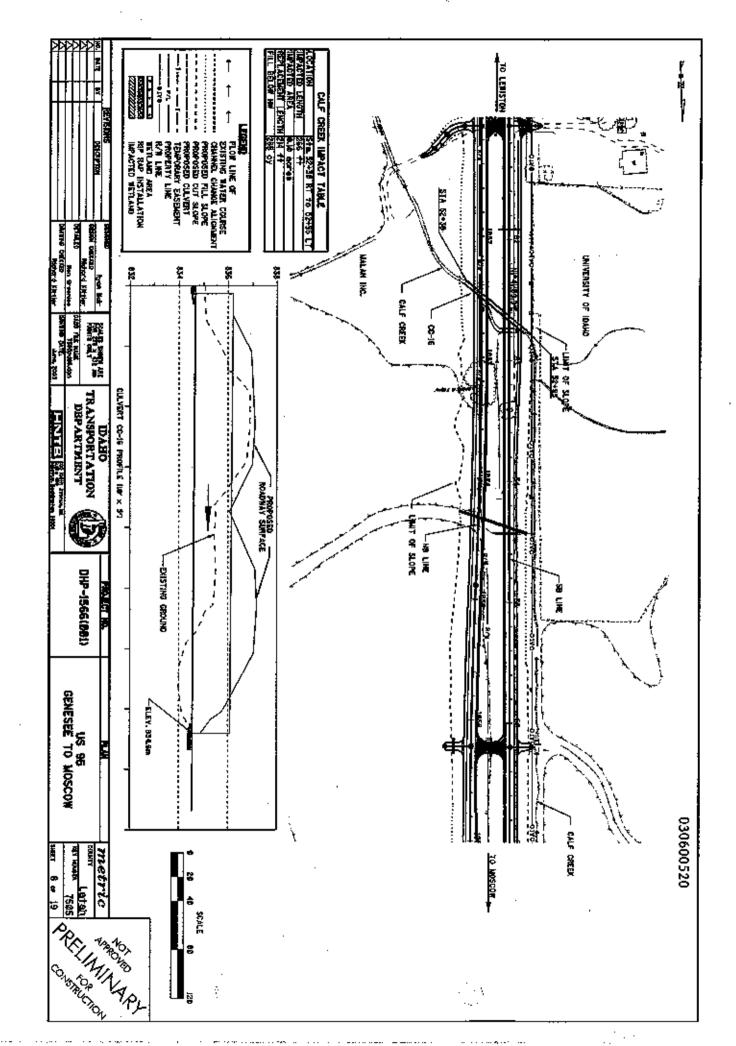


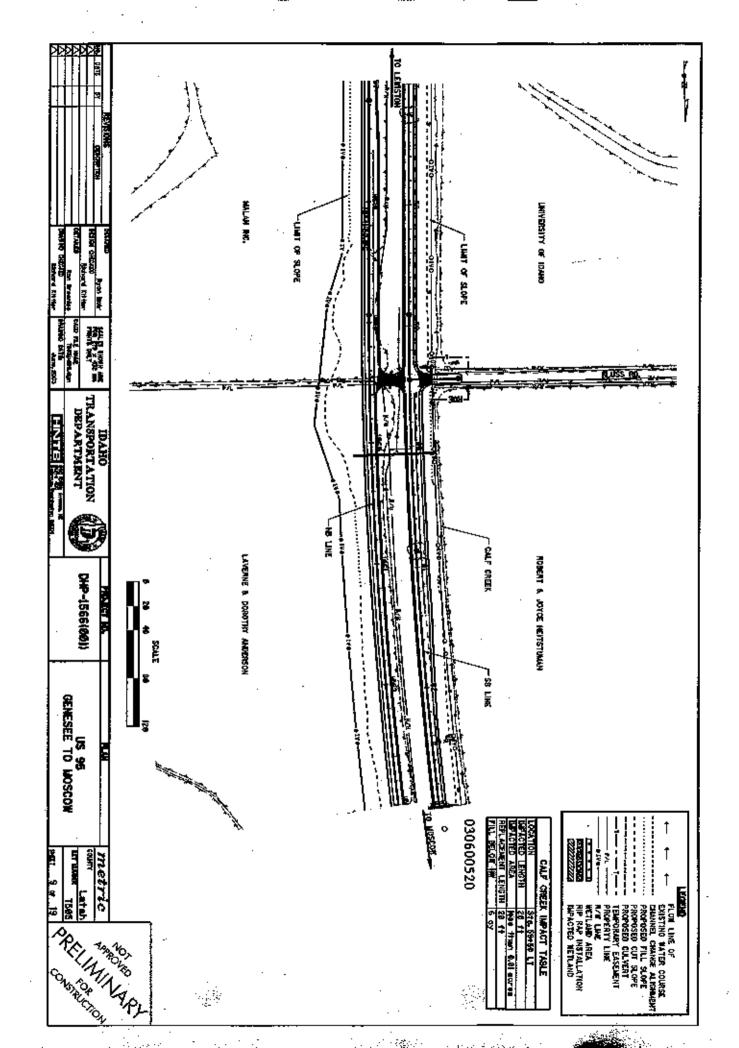


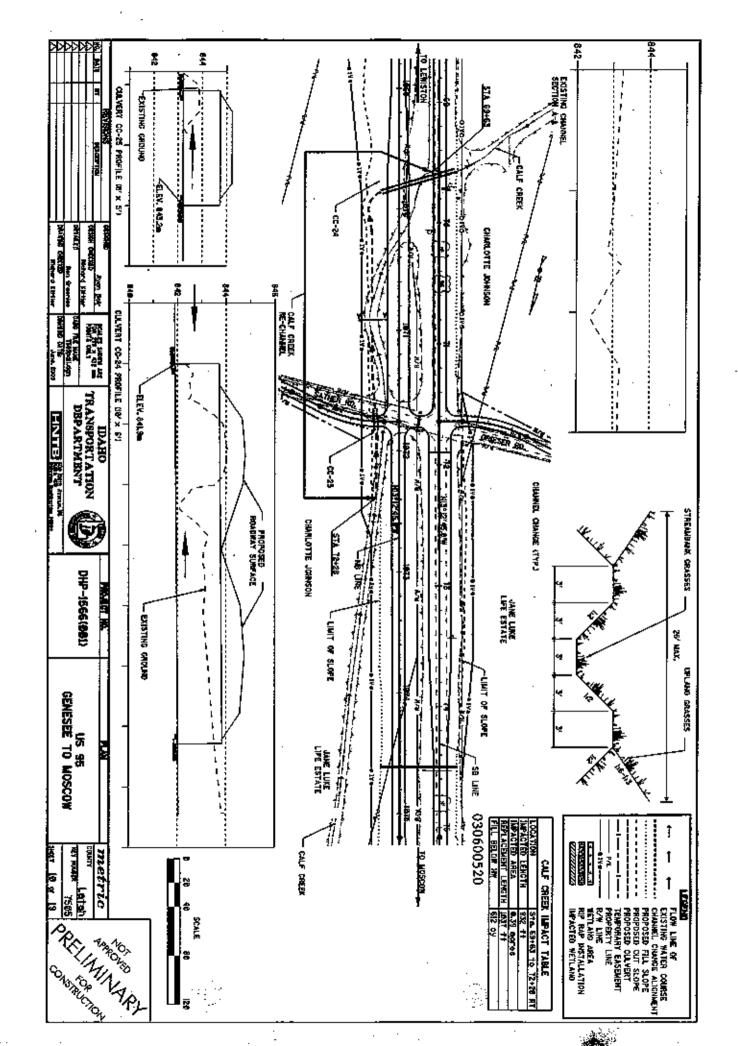


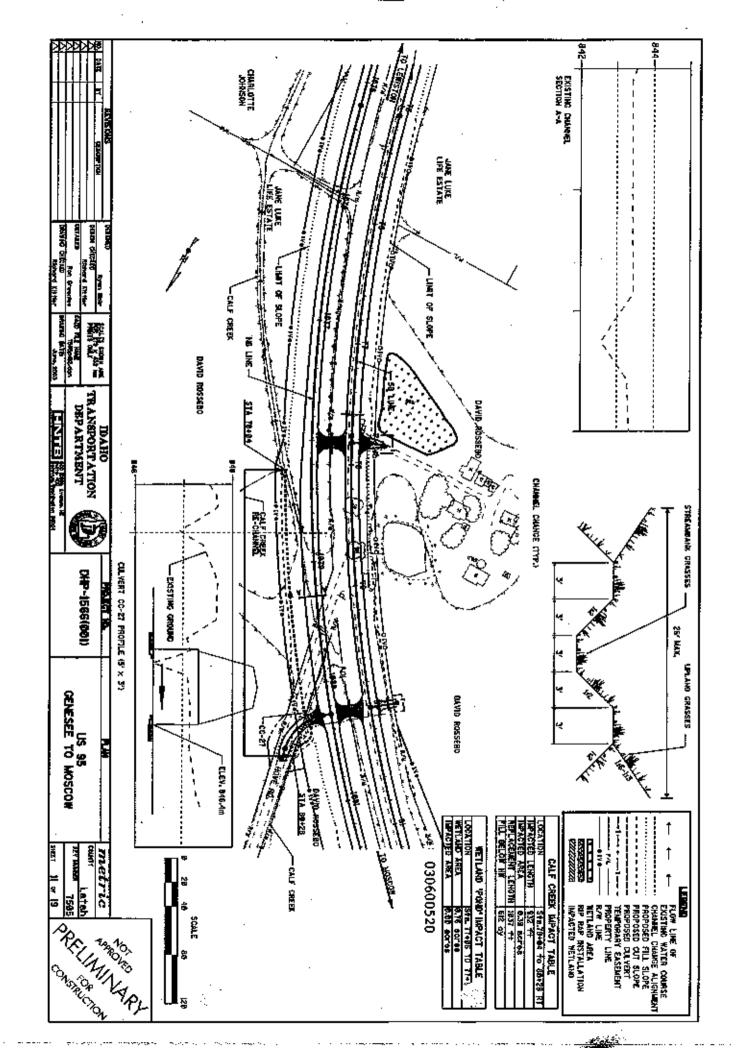


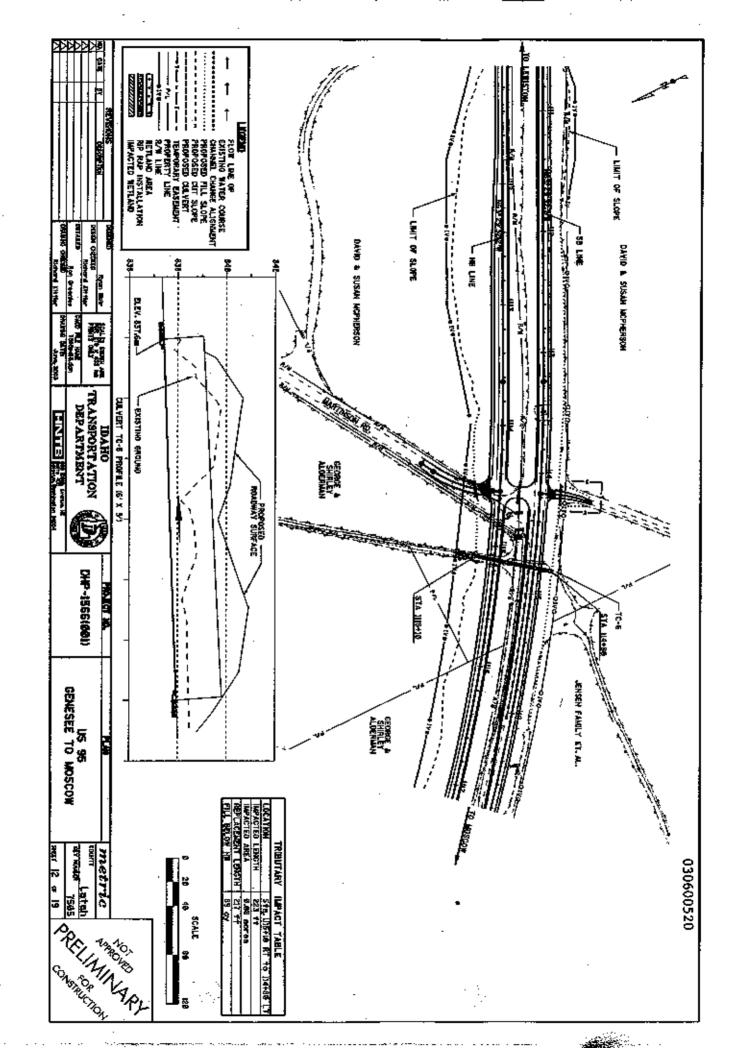


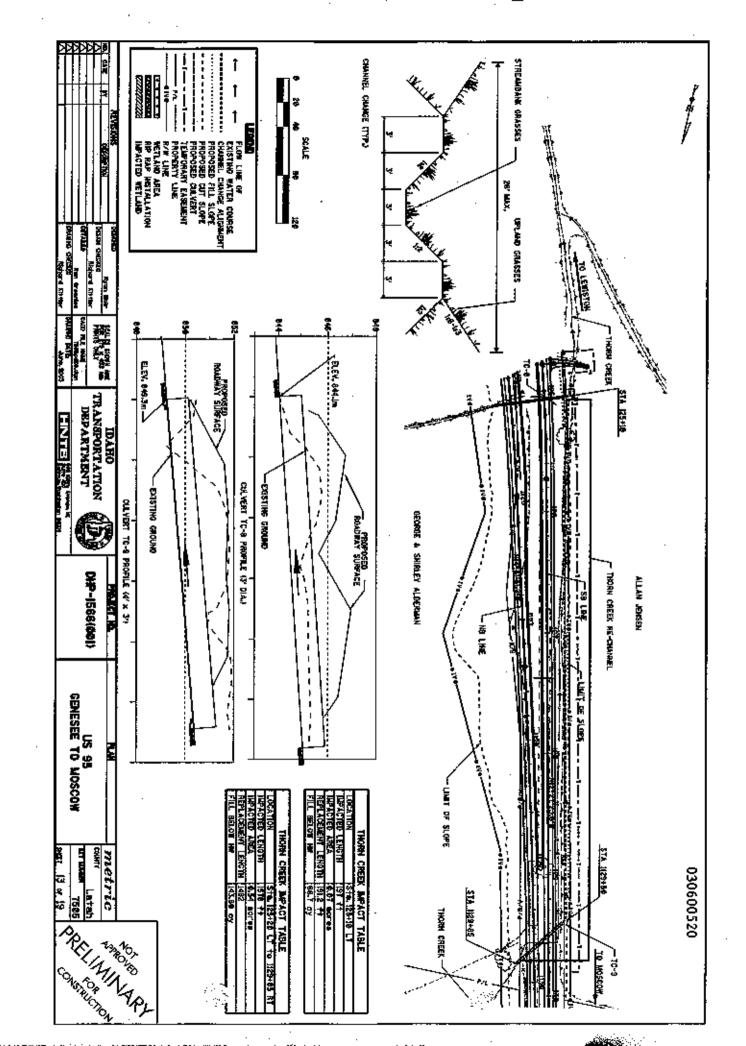


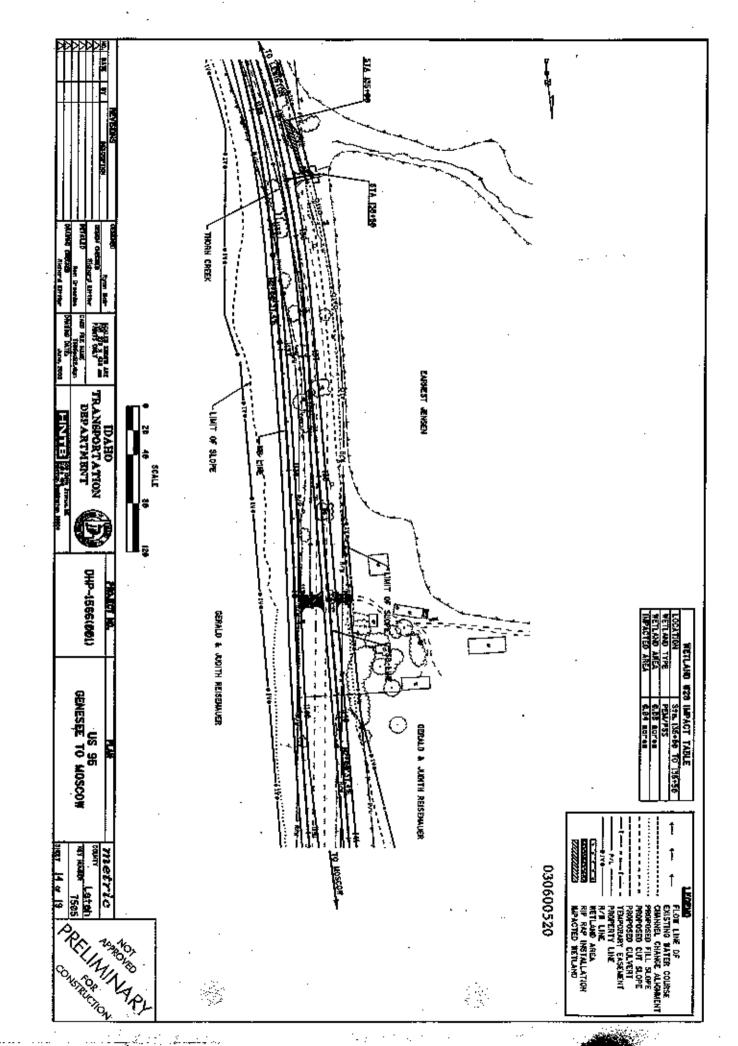


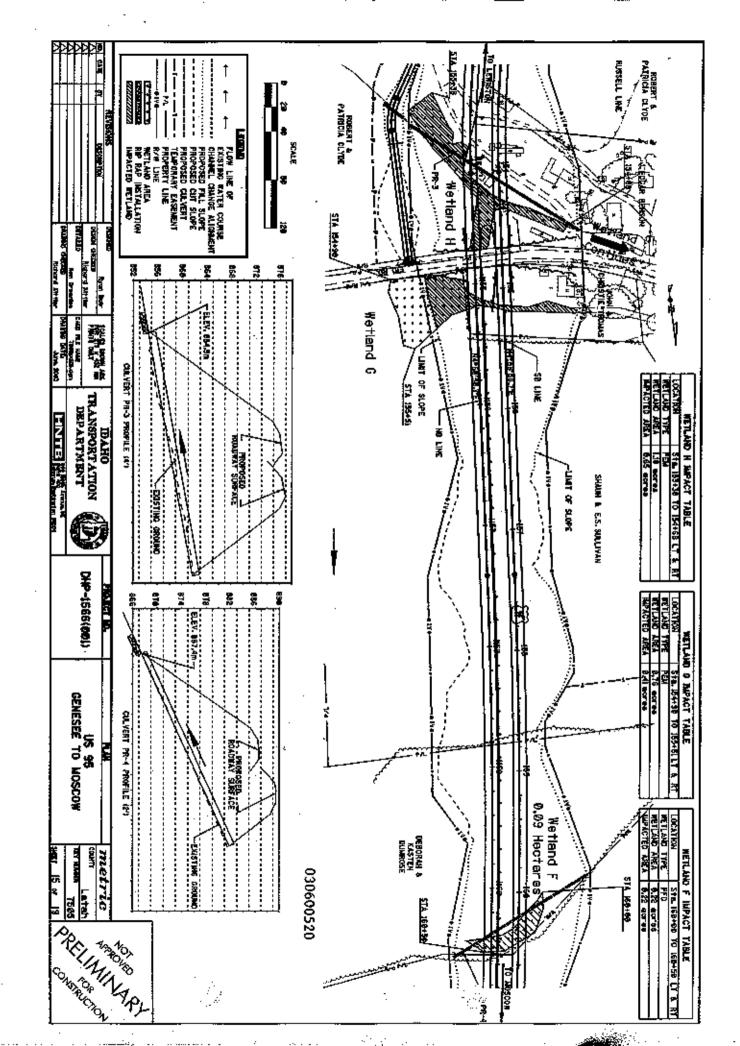


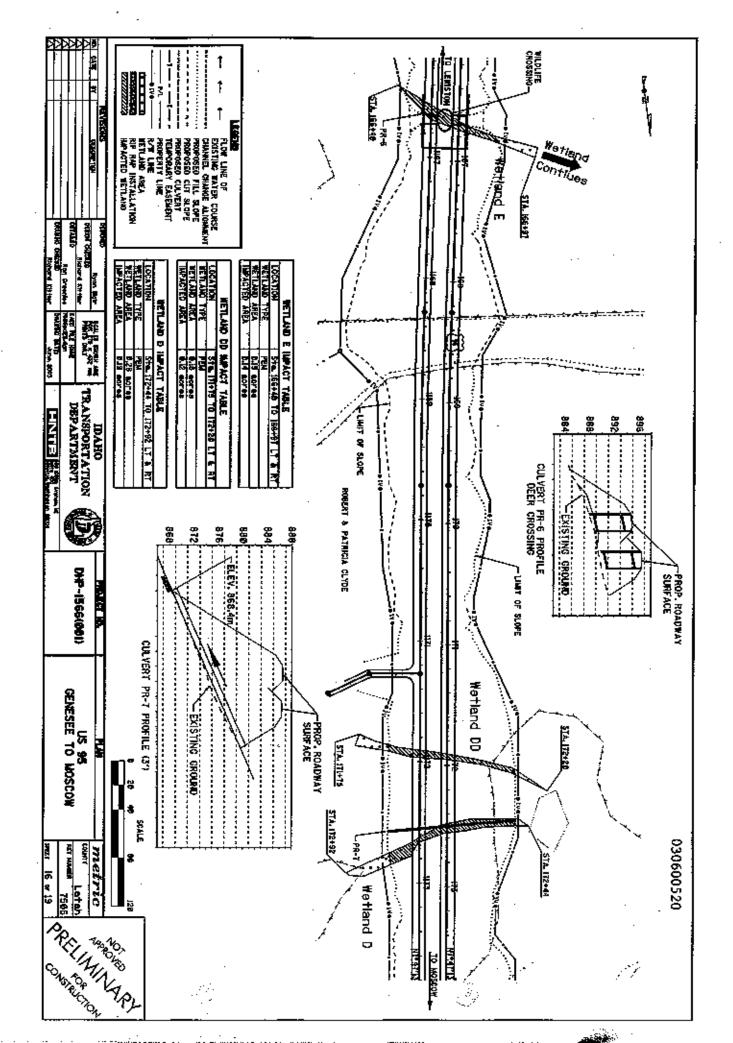


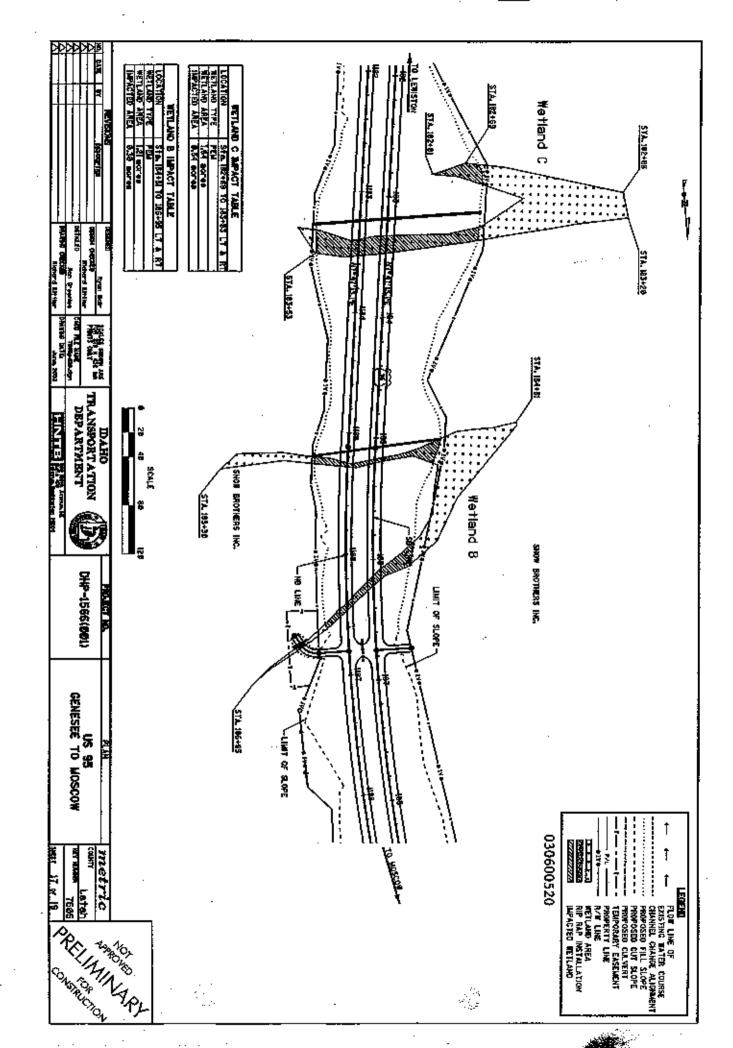


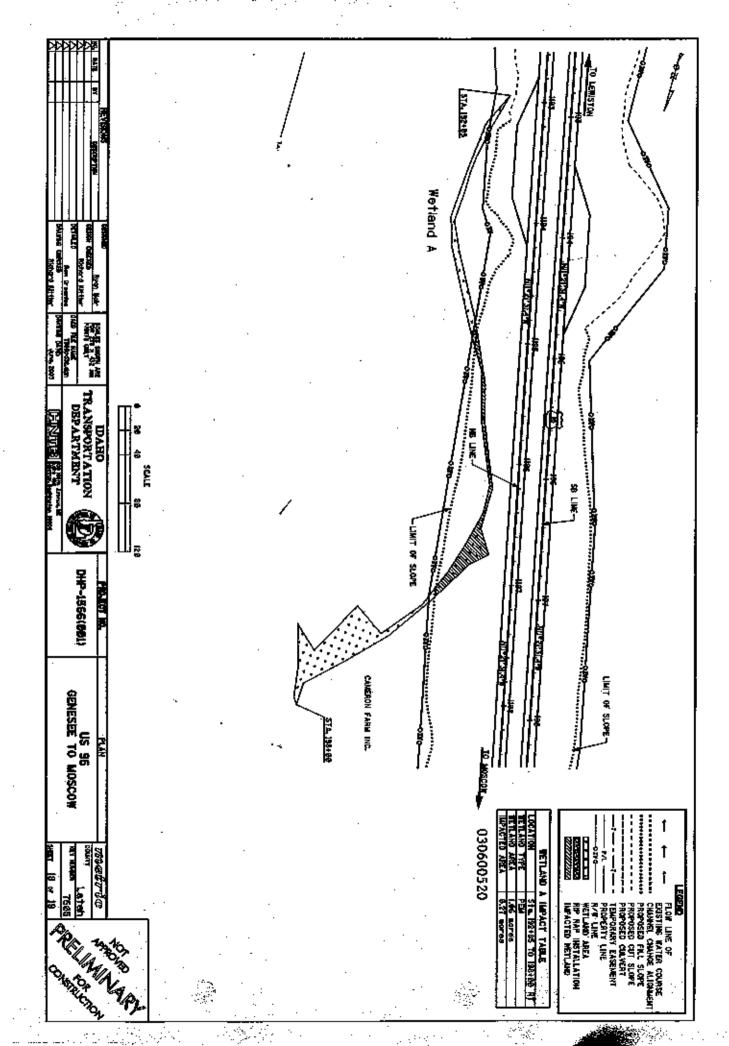


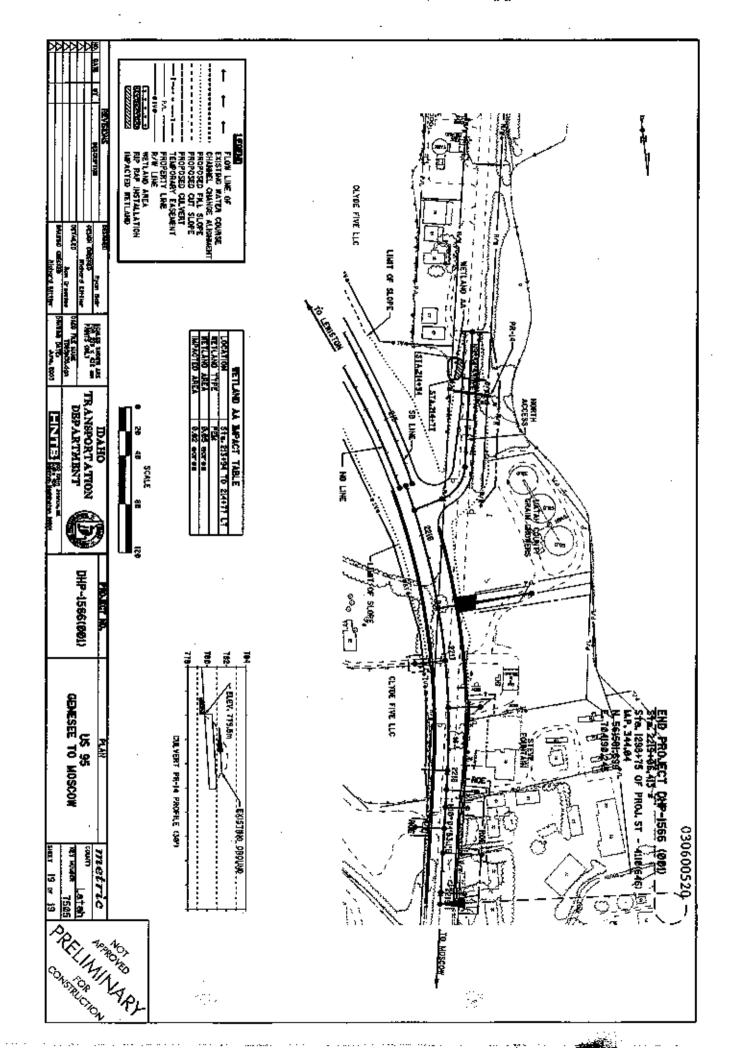


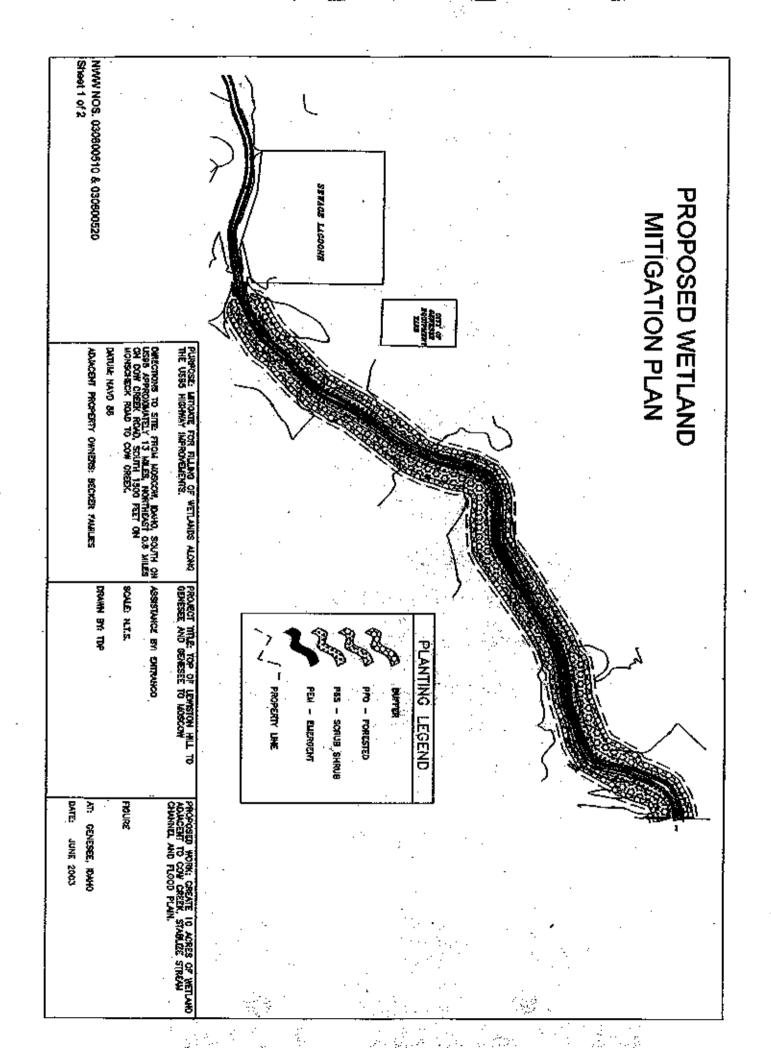












## PROPOSED WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN

